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1. Statement

Ipswich City Council has rural land parcels owned as freehold and held in trust that are suitable for agistment purposes and available for occupation by the local community. The land can be agisted with livestock, namely cattle and horses, and at the same time assist with management of the land.

2. Purpose and Principles

The purpose of this policy is to provide the regulatory requirements for the agistment of rural land and the process to secure tenure over agistment land owned or managed by Ipswich City Council.

This policy is formulated on the basis of ensuring openness, transparency, effective competition, value for money, ethical behaviour and fair dealing in the tendering and management of agistment properties.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan theme:

- Safe, Inclusive and Creative

4. Regulatory Authority

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*
- *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- *Biosecurity Regulation 2016*
- *Land Act 1994*
- *Property Law Act 1994*

5. Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights

and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

This policy applies to all rural land parcels owned as freehold or held as trust suitable for agistment purposes.

6.1 Application Process

Tenders will be reoffered every three (3) years with the commencement of the agreement from 1 July.

Council will determine the carrying capacity of each lot and the biosecurity obligations to minimise risk and the spread of biosecurity matter.

Council is not obligated to accept the highest dollar amount by tender or any tender if council considers it is not in the interest of council to do so. Where there is only one tenderer for a parcel of land, council is not obligated to accept this tender if it considers that the offer is insufficient or is not in the interest of council to accept the offer.

6.2 Terms and Conditions of Agistment Agreement

The terms of the Agistment Agreement shall be for a period of three (3) years. The offer rental amount is to be paid to council in advance each year.

The successful tenderer will be notified by council in writing and will be required to advise council, in writing, within fourteen (14) days if they wish to accept the offer. The successful tenderer will be required to abide by the following conditions:

- Obtain appropriate insurance cover, including fire and public liability for a minimum amount of \$20,000,000
- Keep the land clean and free of noxious weeds and plants and control vermin
- Maintain existing fixtures to a reasonable standard
- No clearing of trees or removal of or damage to any vegetation
- Land is to be used for agistment purposes only and the use of land for any other purposes is strictly prohibited
- Council reserves the right to terminate the agreement, at any time, for any reason
- The Agistment Agreement does not grant the agistee an interest in the council land.

6.3 Agistment Fees

When deciding the fee, Council considers the:

- Type of land and the livestock to be agisted under the permit
- Quality of pasture available for agistment
- Accessibility of water at the agistment site
- The property has adequate stock proof fencing
- Comparable market agistment rates in the area

6.4 Agreement Types

The most appropriate agreement type will be determined under the ‘Tenure over Council Property Policy’.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The Property Services Section is responsible for administering the tender process and managing the agistment agreements in consultation with the asset owner.

8. Key Stakeholders

- Natural Environment Branch – Environment and Sustainability Department
- Infrastructure Strategy Branch – Asset and Infrastructure Services Department

9. Related Documents

- Tenure Over Council Property Policy

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Ensure all commitments relating to the tenure agreement are achieved in the required timeframes.
- Ensure each party is meeting their obligations under the terms and conditions of the tenure agreement.

11. Definitions

Agistment Permit	A permit granted by Council to a permittee in accordance with this policy
Application for agistment	An application for agistment provided by Council (as amended from time to time)
Council	Means Ipswich City Council
Council land	Means Council owned or managed land made available for the purposes of agistment under this policy
Livestock	Means cattle or horses
The Minister	The Minister administering the <i>Land Act 1994</i> (Qld)

12. Policy Owner

The General Manager (Corporate Services) is the policy owner and the Property Services Manager – Property Services Section (Corporate Services) is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.